

LIBRARY

DODWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year ending 31st December 1947. 1946

Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure of submitting my Annual Report re the vital statistics and health of the township of Dodworth and also the report prepared by your Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, Mr. H. Strutt, whom I have always found most helpful and willing.

In my opinion the vital statistics are not bad. As far as can be judged from them, the public health of Dodworth, during 1946, maintained a fair standard. This doesn't mean that all is necessarily well, and that we should be too self-satisfied or complacent. Vital statistics are limited in their range, and do not tell us much about the liveliness and spirit, in other words the morale of the people. Vigilance is as much the price of good health as of liberty, for who knows what epidemics may not be on the wing. There is undoubtedly overcrowding in the houses and an urgent demand for new houses, which doubtless will be met in time. I do think the vital statistics indicate that the people on the whole are being reasonably well-fed. Our diet, if deficient in glamour, would appear to be good and sound in essentials. Food rationing and the feeding of school children both necessary where the fundamental foods are in short supply, tend towards a higher standard of nutrition amongst the people as a whole, at least they have so far through securing a more equitable distribution. But man does not live by bread alone.

The death rate is lower than for England and Wales as a whole and the birth rate is higher. Of the deaths six were in children under one year of age, which gives us an Infantile Mortality Rate of 60, compared with the lower rate of 43 for England and Wales.

Here are the details of these six deaths. Four died in hospital. Of the two who died at home, one was born defective and lived 1 hour and the other died of Acute Gastro Enteritis. In the latter case there was a post mortem examination and Coroner's inquest, because the baby had died suddenly with no doctor in attendance.

TABLE SHOWING AGES AND CAUSES OF DEATH OF THE SIX CHILDREN WHO DIED UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

<u>Age.</u>	<u>Cause of Death.</u>	<u>Comment.</u>
1. 8 Months	Meningitis resulting from Spina Bifida (Spinal Defect)	Died in Hospital.
2. 2 weeks	Haemorrhage of the new born.	Born and died in Hospital.
3. 2 days	Prematurity.	Died in Hospital.
4. 1 day	Prematurity.	Born and died in Hospital.
5. 1 hour	Exomphalos	Born with this defect.
6. 11 months.	Acute Gastro Enteritis	Post Mortem and Inquest.

The area of Dodworth Urban District is 1,917 acres. The census populations in 1921 and 1931 were 3,390 and 4,248 respectively. In 1946, the estimated resident population was 4,100 and the number of houses was 1,024. The rateable value is £13,828 and the sum represented by a 1d rate is £51.

Coal Mining is the only industry in the township apart from agriculture.

BIRTHS.

There were 100 live births (55 males and 45 females) of which seven were illegitimate. Thirty six of the births took place outside the township in hospitals, institutions or elsewhere.

This represents a birth rate of 24.4 per 1,000 resident population, compared with 19.1 for England and Wales.

There was one still-birth - legitimate. This represents a rate of .24 compared with .55 for England and Wales.

DEATHS.

There were 38 deaths (20 males and 18 females). Of these ten died in hospital.

This represents a death rate of 9.2 compared with 11.5 for England and Wales.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

<u>Causes.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Heart Disease	9	9	18
Cancer	3	-	3
Congenital Defects	1	2	3
Intra-cranial	-	3	3
Vascular Disease	-	-	-
Diabetes	1	1	2
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Premature Birth	1	1	2
Gastro-enteritis	1	-	1
Intestinal	-	1	1
Accidents	1	-	1
Other Causes	2	-	2
	20	18	38

Totals of Births & Deaths in Dodworth for years 1937/1946.

A comparison of Infantile Death Rates of Dodworth and England & Wales, 1937/1946.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Dodworth</u>	<u>England & Wales.</u>
1937	113	48	53	58
1938	84	42	95	53
1939	78	47	86	57
1940	70	45	57	55
1941	86	45	56	59
1942	83	36	36	49
1943	92	39	43	49
1944	89	36	56	46
1945	78	52	153	46
1946	100	38	60	43

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Scarlatina.</u>	<u>Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Whooping Cough.</u>
0 - 1 year	-	-	2
1 - 2 years	-	-	5
2 - 3 "	-	-	6
3 - 4 "	-	-	4
4 - 5 "	-	-	-
5 - 10 "	-	-	-
10 - 20 "	1	1	-
20 - 40 "	-	1	-

The incidence of the infectious diseases was remarkable. There was one case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, who had been discharged from the

services. There has been much comment about the increase of Tuberculosis in the country as a whole during the war years and since. This has given rise to a demand for the pasteurization (heat treatment) of milk. The evidence for such a demand in Dodworth is scanty indeed, for we have had no increase in the incidence of the disease. This is gratifying especially these days when it is very difficult to get a patient into a Sanatorium.

COMPARATIVE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

	<u>1937</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1943</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1946</u>
Scarletina	1	10	9	7	6	14	11	4	1
Measles	-	-	38	9	10	101	1	105	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	30	-	-	1	40	17
Diphtheria	2	6	4	-	-	1	3	-	-
Tuberculosis	3	6	2	-	2	4	2	1	1
Pneumonia	4	1	6	15	3	6	8	1	-
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Enysipelas	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	2	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
Ophthalmia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

There were no cases of Diphtheria. There were 261 immunizations during the year - approximately 75% of the children under 15 have been immunised.

The Child Welfare Clinic is held weekly - Tuesdays 2 - 4 p.m.
 The Ante-natal Clinic is held alternate Thursdays 1.30 - 4 p.m.
 The Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease Clinics are held in Barnsley.
 The Certified Midwife lives at 32, South Road, Dodworth, and the District Nurse at Jermyn Croft, Dodworth.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1946.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Privies</u>	<u>W.C's</u>	<u>W.W.C's</u>	<u>Pails</u>
1945	1024	25	907	31	3
1946	1025	25	914	25	3

SANITARY INSPECTION.

A number of nuisances were reported, consisting chiefly of obstructions in drains, Water Closets, and Waste Water Closets, Leaking roofs to old houses and defective spouting. The nuisances are usually remedied on the service of an informal notice to abate the nuisance. Three statutory notices were issued and complied with. Six waste water closets were converted to fresh water closets.

Some slight improvement has been noted on the condition of the Colliery spoil bank, since water sprinklers were installed, in an attempt to overcome the nuisance caused by smoke and fumes issuing from the spoil bank.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

One pig carcase was condemned as unfit for human consumption. 48 lbs. of baked beans in 8 oz. tin containers were found to be unwholesome and unfit for consumption.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A weekly collection of household refuse from 896 dust bins is made and conveyed by a covered scavenging motor lorry to the Welfare Recreation Ground where it is tipped on the controlled system of disposing of the refuse. During the past 11 years a full sized football playing ground has been constructed and the cricket playing ground has been considerably enlarged. During 1946, 6 tons 13 cwt of waste paper was collected.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewage disposal works were reconstructed in 1927 and deal efficiently with the sewage of the District. No complaints or adverse reports have been made since the works were reconstructed. With the exception of 43 houses scattered on the outskirts of the District all the houses are connected to the sewers.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

There are 12 Cowkeepers in the District, three of which are licensed for the production of accredited milk. There are 28 cowsheds which are periodically inspected. The premises used by the one ice-cream manufacturer in the District are kept in a satisfactory condition.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied to every house in the District, except one isolated house, from the mains of the Barnsley Corporation. The supply is adequate and satisfactory.

HOUSING.

The roads and sewers have been completed on the Snow Hill Housing site. 76 houses are in course of erection. Work has commenced on the roads and sewers for an additional 30 houses adjoining the above site. One new dwelling house was erected by private enterprise.

Your obedient Servant,

J. LEISHMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.